

# Farmington Observer

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## Sandy snubs subway

By MARY GNIEWEK

Feeling snubbed by the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority, state Rep. Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, said he'll vote against that agency's resolution for a \$20 million subway study.

The SEMTA resolution, sponsored by Sen. David Plawewski, a Dearborn Heights Democrat, passed the Senate by five votes and is now on the House floor. State Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, whose district includes Farmington and Farmington Hills, supported it.

The resolution would allow the state to expend \$4 million for preliminary engineering studies of a combination subway-light rail transportation system that would run along Woodward from Jefferson Avenue to 10 Mile Road. The federal government would pay \$16 million in matching funds.

Brotherton, who grudgingly supported the resolution until last week, changed his mind.

"I never believed the subway was a sensible viable answer, but I was willing to support it as long as the suburbs got service," he said. "I've come to the conclusion that all the suburbs get 'crumbs.'"

Brotherton asked SEMTA officials for a commitment statement that would guarantee continued expansion of suburban bus service even if federal dollars aren't forthcoming on the subway plan.

"I've been trying to find out for over 90 days," he said. "I've written letters, attended meetings. SEMTA's not doing the job in our area."



**Taking a big shot**  
A little pool is always a lot of fun, especially when you have a guy like Salvation Army volunteer Bill Heaver helping out. Tommy Han-ton, 7, is enjoying some of the recreation offered at the new Army center in Farmington Hills. To read more of what's going on there, turn to page 3A. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

## Hope reigns eternal after New Hampshire

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Shortly before Ronald Reagan snubbed his way through the New Hampshire primary, optimism continued to sweetly wait through the ranks of 17th district coordinators for the other Republican candidates.

Hope had settled into Sen. Edward Kennedy's 17th district camp as his local campaign coordinator was optimistic that the gap between his man and President Jimmy Carter would narrow.

Before Reagan swept up 50 percent of the Republican vote and Carter picked up 10 delegates to Kennedy's nine, local supporters were pulling for their candidate to slide into first.

The 17th district, including Farmington, Farmington Hills, Southfield, Redford Township and northwest Detroit waited for their candidates to assume their rightful places.

The Reagan victory confirmed the feelings of his campaign coordinator in the 17th district, Haline Frizzelle of Farmington Hills.

"I'm very confident about it," she said before New Hampshire was tallied.

Mrs. Frizzelle, who has a Polish background, discounted reports concerning Reagan's telling of an ethnic joke.

"If I couldn't laugh at myself, there'd be something wrong with me," she said.

She noted that Reagan's campaign coordinator in Wyandotte was a woman of Italian descent who agreed with her assessment of the situation.

"It was used out of context," Mrs. Frizzelle said.

She reserved her criticism for the press's handling of the incident.

The media's approach to Reagan has been unfair and worked toward Bush's advantage, she said.

Her commitment to Reagan stems from her respect for his honesty, she added.

"I believe in the man. He's a real sincere person which is unusual in a politician," she said.

Discussion which linked Reagan's age to his ability to lead the country missed the point that the candidate's intelligence was his major asset, according to Mrs. Frizzelle.

She said that age didn't restrain England's Winston Churchill or the Soviet Union's Leonid Brezhnev from leading their countries.

Her chief concern is for her country's future. Reagan's stance of America comes first attracted her.

"I AM concerned about this country. I am concerned about the world but this is my country. I feel sorry about people who have no nationalism for this country," she said.

Before George Bush assumed second place in the New Hampshire voting, his 17th district chairwoman Shirley Stadler was confident that her candidate would present a good showing.

She credited his experience and his grass roots campaigning for his political strength.

His moderate stance could attract independents to the party without waver-ing the Republican purpose, she said.

Criticism that Bush was trying to appear as if he were a younger version of Reagan was panned by Mrs. Stadler.

She cited his experience as a legislator, diplomat, and CIA adminis-

trator as qualifying him to run the country.

"He is extremely well qualified. He generates respect," she said.

"People say, 'I might prefer one of the other candidates but I think he's a winner,' she said.

In the Democratic camp, David Lusk, Carter's local campaign coordinator, discounted any Kennedy threat before the primary votes were totaled.

HE SAW the Kennedy effort running out of steam in the southern primaries, Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

"Before the South or shortly thereafter, it'll either be all over or it will be one hell of an interesting campaign," Lusk said.

He labeled Kennedy's campaign tactic of debating with a tape recording to a Carter speech as a "nice try." But he noted that Kennedy's campaign went from high spot, to low spot without building any momentum.

The Republican competition was rated as either a piece of election cake or a tough row of votes to cultivate depending on the candidate.

While Lusk saw Reagan's competition to Carter as "no problem," he suspected that "it would be rather interesting against Bush."

While others criticized Carter's handling of economic issues, Lusk suggested that the situation wasn't of Carter's making.

"Carter has no control over the prime lending rate. He's trying to slow things down," Lusk said.

Kennedy supporters in the district placed the blame for the country's economic situation squarely in Carter's lap.

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THE REPRESENTATIVE also is miffed over a nine-month delay in a 50-vehicle bus service line promised three years ago in Oakland County. The OCART line will operate with just 16 buses until July.

Brotherton also objects to SEMTA's agreement with the city of Detroit to maintain the same number of bus miles within the city after the proposed subway is operational.

"For the past year and a half, it's been one capitulation after another for (Detroit Mayor) Coleman Young," Brotherton charged.

"Surface light rail transportation would probably do more to rebuild the vitality of the Woodward corridor than a subway," he continued. "There'd be enough funds left over for light rail construction on Grand River, Grotius and maybe Michigan Ave."

SEMTA General Manager Larry Salci, who cut short a two-week vacation Tuesday to lobby for resolution support in Lansing, said the issue poses a new common city versus suburbs running battle over who benefits and who pays for regional services.

"The problem is compounded by the fact that there's obviously a lot of referendum on Coleman Young because it's something he wants for the city," Salci said.

"There's no question in discussions with 50 legislators that when you get down to major issues, they feel they're being shortchanged."

Senior citizens may have hopes of being protected against eviction from their apartments in the hard-hitting wave of condominium conversions.

State Sen. Doug Ross and state Rep. Joe Forbes, both Oak Park Democrats, announced in a press conference Monday they will introduce a bill this week in the state legislature to regulate conversions.

"Under our proposal, all persons 62 or older and their spouses would have the right to a lifetime lease for their apartments if their buildings are converted to condominiums," said Ross. His district includes Southfield, Farmington Hills, Lathrup Village and Farmington.

"In other words, no senior in Michigan could be forced to move out of his

## Condo conversion fought by state lawmakers

By JACKIE KLEIN

or her apartment as a result of condominium conversions and he or she will be paying reasonable rents."

Forbes, whose district includes Southfield and Lathrup Village, said the bill is needed because of the dramatic increase in apartments being converted into condominiums in Michigan.

In the last half of 1978, he said, there were requests to take reservations to sell 378 apartment units as condominiums. In the last half of 1979, he said, the number skyrocketed to 4,716 units. Last month, requests were made to take reservations for conversion of another 1,707 units.

ROSS AND FORBES, who established a legislative task force on condominium conversions, said they didn't oppose the right of property owners to

convert their apartment buildings into condominiums.

"The task force, however, concluded that elderly persons who would have an extremely difficult time moving or finding another place to live ought to be allowed to continue to rent their apartments," Ross said.

"Many seniors sold their homes in the belief that they could live out their years in an apartment. Had they known about the coming wave of condominium conversions, many would have stayed in their homes."

Monday's press conference was in the apartment of Helen Gorton, 75, who lives in the Country Court North Apartments on Greenfield between 30 Mile and Lincoln. The apartment is slated for conversion, but Mrs. Gorton and other renters in the area circula-

petitions against any possible change to condominiums.

The legislation also calls for the state to provide low-interest mortgages to low- and moderate-income renters who want to buy their apartments. Many renters would like to purchase condominiums, Ross said, but can't afford the down payment and higher monthly payments. Low-interest loans will help many tenants stay in their apartments with all the advantages of home ownership, he said.

THE BILL would also provide protection for businesspeople who purchased apartment buildings to convert and would be prevented under the Ross-Forbes proposal from selling these units currently occupied by seniors, Forbes said.

"Under our bill, the state would loan businesspersons the money they paid for the apartment complex until seniors renting units decide to move out," Forbes said.

"When seniors with lifetime leases decide to move out so the owner can sell those units as condominiums, the building owner would have to pay back the loan to the state."

Some developers say the proposed bill is a reasonable approach to the condo conversion problem, Ross said. But others may lobby against the measure.

"Our solution is better than a total moratorium on all conversions," Ross said. "But if our bill isn't enacted quickly, we may be forced to support such a moratorium."

A number of local developers have

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THE OCART DELAY added fuel to the fire, Salci admits. The nine-month delay was due to a switch from state to federal funding. Labor agreements had to be negotiated with bus drivers.

"It's made life difficult for local Oakland County officials like Sandy Brotherton who were very involved in the development of these programs," Salci said.

"They have a difficult time explaining to constituents why (the program) is not living up to its promises."

The SEMTA plan approved Dec. 18, 1979, calls for expansion of large and small bus service in the seven counties served by SEMTA, commuter rail and light rail service, and a people-mover in downtown Detroit.

"The elements are all connected from a transportation standpoint," Salci said. "We are not going ahead with the idea of building light rail at the expense of the suburbs."

"All bus expansion plans will be in place with 315 regular buses and 300 small buses added. A fifth train will be added on the Detroit to Pontiac line and new service will be added from Mt. Clemons and Ann Arbor to Detroit."

If the resolution is defeated in the House, Salci said the state will lose the opportunity to achieve \$900 million in federal funds.

"It doesn't make sense to say no to getting information on which to make a decision on whether the subway plan is being done efficiently," he said.

With federal matching funds, the entire project would cost \$1.5 billion.



Karon Perkins, now studying at the Pushkin Institute in Moscow, posed for this picture while attending North Farmington.

## Afghanistan crisis adds mystery to student's cultural exchange

By MARY GNIEWEK

Maybe it's not prime time for being an American in Moscow, but 20-year-old Karon Perkins is weathering the Afghanistan storm as one of 24 U.S. college students studying at Pushkin Institute this semester.

The 1977 North Farmington High School senior class president, now a senior at Purdue University, was chosen by the Soviet Government for the rigorous six-day-a-week program covering Russian language, literature, history, politics and cultural patterns.

Her 10 weeks of immersion into Russian culture will end on March 20. To date, Karon has talked to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Perkins of Anderson, Ind., formerly of Farmington Hills, once since her Christmas Day departure for Europe.

"We were worried. We didn't hear anything until a week ago Monday," said the student's mother, Sharon. "She hasn't been receiving our letters. We started writing before Jan. 1."

Ms. Perkins left the U.S. before the Russians invaded Afghanistan, setting off the biggest Soviet-American rift since the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962.

"By the time all of this started, she was in Moscow," Mrs. Perkins said. "We got a letter from Ohio State, which coordinated the trip, saying everything was fine. There was no threat to the students."

STILL, the Perkinses were apprehen-

sive until they heard personally from their Phi Beta Kappa, straight-A daughter.

Karon told her parents in her 6:30 a.m. call that some Russians talk to them, but most are afraid and a little bit skeptical. She saw some Olympics coverage on television. She also watched TV news coverage of Americans opposed to draft registration, "rioting in the streets, you know, propaganda," Mrs. Perkins said.

"She sounded pretty good. I don't know if someone was listening in or not."

Ms. Perkins' sorority sisters at Alpha Xi Delta, where she has lived on the Purdue campus in West Lafayette, Ind., in their 2 1/2 years, have heard from her.

"In her letters and telegrams, she has no knowledge about the Afghanistan affair," said Karen Triffshouser, a sorority sister.

"She writes about her studies, how difficult it is to get around the city, and that she looks forward to coming back."

While she has been in Moscow, Karon's parents have been notified that their daughter is the top political science student at Purdue this year. She expects to receive her bachelor's degree in June, a year ahead of the usual four years it takes to fulfill graduation requirements.

"KARON WAS a Phi Beta Kappa, senior class president, and very active in school programs," said North Farm-

ington High Principal Clayton Graham.

"She tends to emphasize international political science. Her goal, if it hasn't changed, is to be a lawyer."

Perkins said his daughter still credits the Farmington school system for an education that left her feeling well prepared for college. Perkins moved his family to Indiana when he took a job with General Motors.

Ms. Perkins has applied to five law schools including her favorite, the University of Michigan. None has replied yet.

Just one further source of travel-related worry lies ahead for the Perkins: sidetracks scheduled for the students by the Soviet Ministry of Higher and Specialized Education.

Their daughter is scheduled to visit Tashkent, a city near the Afghanistan border.

"I read in one of the major news weeklies that Tashkent was a staging site for the attack on Afghanistan," Perkins said. So far the sidetrack hasn't been cancelled.

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